

What is claimed is:

1. An antigen activation method for unmasking said antigen masked by aldehyde fixation which comprises the steps of:

soaking a slice of tissue cells stuck on a slide glass in CCA aqueous solution;

5 heating and destroying aldehyde bridges in said slice of tissue cells.

2. The antigen activation method according to claim 1, wherein said CCA aqueous solution is of concentration greater than or equal to 0.0001 % and smaller than 100 %

and pH 1.0 to 12.0.

10 3. The antigen activation method according to claim 1, wherein either one of an electric pot, autoclave, microwave oven, scalding, or constant-temperature bath is employed for said heating.

4. The antigen activation method according to claim 1, wherein 4 to 20 % NaOH aqueous solution is added in said CCA aqueous solution.

15 5. An antigen activation method for unmasking said antigen masked by aldehyde fixation which comprises the steps of:

soaking a slice of tissue cells stuck on a slide glass in CCA aqueous solution;

heating and destroying aldehyde bridges in said slice of tissue cells ;

soaking said slice of tissue cells in a buffer solution, after completing heating;

20 and

executing an enzyme-antibody staining.

6. The antigen activation method according to claim 5, wherein said CCA aqueous solution is of concentration greater than or equal to 0.0001 % and smaller than 100 %

25 and pH 1.0 to 12.0.

7. The antigen activation method according to claim 5, wherein said CCA aqueous solution is of 0.001 to 10 % and pH 5.0 to pH 10.0.

8. The antigen activation method according to claim 5, wherein said CCA aqueous solution is of 0.01 to 1 % and pH 7.0 to pH 8.0pH.

9. The antigen activation method according to claim 5, wherein said CCA aqueous solution is of 0.05 % and pH 7.4.

5 10. The antigen activation method according to claim 5, wherein said CCA aqueous solution is a solution of CCA dissolved in distilled water or deionized water.

11. The antigen activation method according to claim 5, wherein either one of an electric pot, autoclave, microwave oven, scalding, or constant-temperature bath is employed for said heating.

10 12. The antigen activation method according to claim 5, wherein 4 to 20 % NaOH aqueous solution is added in said CCA aqueous solution.

13. The antigen activation method according to claim 5, wherein said slice of tissue cells stuck on a slide glass is soaked in said CCA aqueous solution, before the first antibody reaction, and immediately after an endogenous peroxidase treatment.

15 14. An antigen activator for unmasking said antigen masked by aldehyde fixation which includes CCA.

15. An antigen activator for unmasking said antigen masked by aldehyde fixation which comprises:

distilled water or ionized water;

20 CCA; and

NaOH,

wherein a mixed solution of said CCA and NaOH is of pH 1.0 to 12.0, and a concentration of said CCA in said mixed solution is greater than or equal to 0.0001 % and smaller than 100 %.

25 16. An antigen activator for unmasking said antigen masked by aldehyde fixation which comprises:

distilled water or ionized water;

CCA; and

NaOH,

wherein a mixed solution of said CCA and NaOH is of pH 5.0 to pH 10.0 and a concentration of said CCA in said mixed solution is 0.001 to 10 %.

5        17. An antigen activator for unmasking said antigen masked by aldehyde fixation which comprises:

distilled water or ionized water;

CCA; and

NaOH,

10        wherein a mixed solution of said CCA and NaOH is of pH 7.0 to pH 8.0pH and a concentration of said CCA in said mixed solution is 0.01 to 1 %.

18. An antigen activator for unmasking said antigen masked by aldehyde fixation which comprises:

distilled water or ionized water;

15        CCA; and

NaOH,

wherein a mixed solution of said CCA and NaOH is of pH 7.4 and a concentration of said CCA in said mixed solution is 0.05 %.